

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OSCI EAID EG

SUBJ: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JWG MEETING

OCT 8-10-SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT

1. IN PROCESS OF MAKING VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OCTOBER 8 MEETING OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JWG, WE ARE INCREASINGLY REALIZING THAT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TIME HAS BEEN SELECTED. OFFICIALS ARE HARD TO CONTACT NOW THAT RAMADAN FASTING HAS BEGUN. MFA IS HAVING DIFFICULTY ROUNDING UP ITS DELEGATION TO EVEN MAKE FIRM PROPOSAL AS WE REQUESTED. AS DEPT. IS AWARE, OCTOBER 6 HAS BEEN DECLARED A HOLIDAY IN EGYPT AND "VICTORY CELEBRATIONS" ARE BEING PLANNED OVER A FOUR TO FIVE DAY PERIOD. FOLLOWING QUICKLY THEREAFTER (OCTOBER 14) WILL BE THE FIVE DAY OFFICIAL HOLIDAY MARKING THE END OF THE MONTH OF FASTING DURING WHICH IT WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS OF US TO SUGGEST THAT AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION HAVE MEETINGS HERE. IN ADDITION, THE LOCAL HOTEL SITUATION IS CRITICAL OWING TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE VICTORY CELEBRATION AND THE END OF RAMADAN. WE DO NOT YET HAVE CONFIRMED RESERVATIONS

ANYWHERE FOR THE DELEGATION. NOR HAVE OUR EGYPTIAN HOSTS BEEN ABLE TO HELP.

2. UNLESS THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS OF WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE, (E.G. THE SCHEDULES OF THE VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS)

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INVOLVED) RECOMMEND THAT FOR PRACTICAL REASONS WE

SUGGEST A POSTPONEMENT UNTIL THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER,
E.G. 23 AND 24.
EILTS

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